

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the following remarks. Applicants thank the Examiner for carefully considering this application and indicating that claims 1-9, 11, 12, 14-17, 19, 20, 22-31, 34-36, 39, 40, 42, 43, and 45-51, renumbered as claims 1-41, are allowed.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-41 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 8, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 30, 31, 33, 38, and 41 are independent. The remaining claims depend, either directly or indirectly, from claims 1, 8, 15, 19, 31, 33, and 38.

Claim Amendments

Claim 2 is amended to address antecedent basis issues, necessitated by the Examiner's amendments to claim 1. *See* Notice of Allowability dated October 29, 2007 at page 2. No new matter is added by way of this amendment.

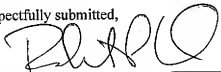
Conclusion

This amendment is filed concurrently with the payment of the issue fee, correcting formal matters in the Specification. Applicant believes this amendment does not raise any new issues and does not require any substantive consideration. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests consideration and entry of this amendment without withdrawal of the application from allowance.

Applicants believe this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 33226/944001; P6999).

Dated: January 14, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Robert P. Lord
Registration No.: 46,479
OSHA · LIANG LLP
1221 McKinney St., Suite 2800
Houston, Texas 77010
(713) 228-8600
(713) 228-8778 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicants